To assist in the preservation of the muskellunge population in the St. Lawrence River, SaveThe River and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) Thousand Islands Biological Station (TIBS) sponsor a Muskie Release Award.

The release of fish ensures a future supply of naturally reproduced muskies as well as larger trophies for years to come! Since the inception of the muskellunge release award in 1987, over 500 muskies have been successfully released. Studies by TIBS indicated recent increases in muskellunge reproductive success and in average fish size by over three inches following the promotion of "catch and release" and increases in the size limit.

To encourage this practice, anglers who release a muskie 48" or larger during the fishing season (third Saturday in June through December 15) are eligible to receive a signed, limited edition print, St. Lawrence River Muskie! by St. Lawrence River artist Michael Ringer, available only through the Muskie Release Award program.

A secondary goal is the accumulation of information from muskie anglers which will be used in studies conducted by SUNY-ESF and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). These two agencies are cooperating in research aimed at locating and protecting muskellunge spawning and nursery habitat and improving management to protect the species and the fishery.

We are asking for your help by voluntarily completing Section 2 of the attached Muskellunge Release Affidavit.

This information, received and compiled by Save The River, will be considered confidential and immediately forwarded to biologists with SUNY-ESF and DEC to monitor muskellunge population status.

Good luck and good fishing!